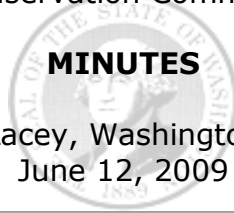


Washington State Conservation Commission Special Meeting



Lacey, Washington  
June 12, 2009

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The Washington State Conservation Commission (Commission/WSCC) met in a special session on June 12, 2009 in Lacey, Washington. Commission Chair Lynn Bahrych called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

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**ATTENDEES**

Lynn Bahrych, Chair  
Fred Colvin, Vice Chair  
Jim Peters, Member  
Lynn Brown, Member  
Tracy Eriksen, Member  
Lee Faulconer, Member  
Bill Boyum, Member  
Dean Longrie, Member  
Melodie Selby, Member

**COMMISSION STAFF**

Mark Clark, Executive Director  
Ron Shultz, Policy Director  
Debbie Becker, Financial Service Manager  
Ray Ledgerwood, Program Facilitator  
Megan McCormack, Program Specialist  
Carol Smith, Habitat & Monitoring Coordinator

**PARTNERS REPRESENTED DURING THIS MEETING:**

Don Stuart, American Farmland Trust

**GUESTS:**

Joy Garitone, Kitsap Conservation District  
Raymond Brown, Pine Creek Conservation District

**By Telephone Conference:**

George Boggs, Whatcom Conservation District  
Mike Tobin, North Yakima Conservation District  
John Bolender, Mason Conservation District

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**Call to Order**

Chair Bahrych called the meeting to order at 9:00 am.

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**09-11 Budget**

Chair Bahrych opened the discussion by reading Dean Longrie's WACD newsletter article. She commented favorably on his article. Bill Boyum stated "we need to remember that we at the Commission are stewards of the money". Commissioner Boyum continued that there needs to be fundamental accountability by the Conservation Districts across the state, which will ultimately over time lead to ensuring good conservation on the ground and bring us due diligence for districts to get to where they need to be. Commissioner Longrie reported that at the all-districts meeting in Ellensburg there were 40 districts represented, and the support was unanimous for taking steps for increased accountability and a new funding mechanism.

WSCC Director Mark Clark began his presentation on the 09-11 Budget. He stated that he is thankful to all the staff who worked very hard on this. The overall goal of this year's budget is

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"Promises Made, Promises Kept" and a focus on whether the Conservation Districts did what they said they would do. Lynn Bahrych pointed out that the budget distribution list Mark presented is a work in progress; it is not set in stone and is subject to a discussion among the Commission. Even though a district receives money from numerous sources, it is the Commission's responsibility to ensure they are utilizing the funds in the way they said they would.

Director Clark presented a proposal to the Commission for a new competitive grant proposal of a total of \$250,000 annually. This would reduce the district funding by about 5% per district, but the district could make that up by the competitive grant.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Fred Colvin moved to set aside \$250,000 from the proposed allocation to districts, such set-aside funds to be used for a competitive grant program for the districts. Dean Longrie seconded.**

**Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Bahrych reminded the Commissioners that today they need to make a decision that will help guide staff to make the allocations between now and the July meeting. Commissioner Boyum felt that there needed to be a procedure for those districts on the "watch" list where there is communication on how they will correct. He thinks there could be some criteria stating the districts get a portion of the funds now, with more later under certain conditions. Director Clark suggested that there be an approach that allows for dialogue without having a structure that immediately penalizes districts. Commissioner Jim Peters felt since this is something new for the districts, they need to know about the "dings" they have received. If they are aware, it might be simple to fix.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Longrie moved that districts funding be based on the allocation request as a starting point. Those districts that are not meeting minimum requirements should receive no more than 50%. The districts receiving no more than 50% have to come forward with a plan and action. We will maintain their remaining budget until January.**

**This motion failed for lack of a second.**

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Lynn Brown moved that the total amount proposed for district allocation be divided equally among the districts, with 75% allocated immediately, then reducing the allocation for districts on the watch list to 50%, then indicate in communications we will review allocations and have that ready by the July meeting based off of 2010/2011.**

**This motion failed for lack of a second**

Chair Bahrych asked what it was that the staff needed from the Commission today. Mark responded stating that the Livestock, CREP & Engineering funds were based on the survey and have been allocated. The Districts will need some base amount of funding for at least a couple of months to ensure the lights stay on. Chair Bahrych felt that we need to tie funding to performance. The Commission has wanted this and the districts have asked for it but on an interim basis, something needs to be decided between now and July.

**Motion:**

**Commissioner Longrie moved Districts be allocated 25% of their FY 2009 allocation for FY 2010. Commission staff is directed to evaluate the district survey requests, prorate the final budget based on the budget survey, and bring this information back to the Commission in July. At this time, the Commission proposes that districts identified on the "watch" list will receive no more than 50% of their final budget and must develop a plan to get into compliance before receiving the remainder. If a district on the "watch" list does not get into compliance by January 2010, their remaining allocation will revert to a pool of funds to be distributed to all districts. The Commission will approve the final budget distribution no later than their July regular meeting. Commissioner Lee Faulconer seconded.**

**Motion passed.**

Chair Bahrych adjourned the meeting at 12:15.

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